

Mr. Lister asked if the tunics and trousers were made by the same contractor? because last year great complaints were made about the material and work in the trousers. The minister suggested that it might have been a result of the hurry with which some supplies had been prepared for the North-West. Sir Richard Cartwright drew attention to Col. Aylmer's condemnation of the trousers. Mr. Jones said that while he was minister it was the custom of the department to order the militia clothing from England, as uniform scarlet and blue cloth could not be got here. The English clothes were superior in color, texture and style, and if yet superior they should be yet taken. The minister said the Canadian goods were now the best in every way, and perfect colors were successfully produced, so that the government had economized by patronizing the home manufacturers. Mr. Jones suggested that the same reasons might apply to the ammunition made at Quebec. He had received many complaints, and was assured that it was practically worthless. The minister acknowledged that at first there had been deficiencies, but added that for the last eighteen months everything had been satisfactory. It was necessary for Canada to make her own Snider ammunition in consequence of the adoption of the Martini by the Imperial forces. He added in reply to a question that the amount allowed for practice this year would not be increased.

Mr. Casey said the defective ammunition was due to three causes, lack of accuracy in the machine measuring the powder, lack of accuracy in the shape of the bullet, and lack of uniformity in the quality of the powder. The first native powder was got without specification, and had to be changed for Waltham Abbey powder. Sir Adolphe said the trouble arose mostly from the powder. After last session it was tried to get satisfactory powder in Canada by specification, but it had become necessary to go back to Waltham Abbey powder, and the ammunition now made was equal to anything imported.

Mr. Casey hoped the major general's suggestion to increase the practice allowance would be carried out. He thought the opposition would not object to a larger vote for this purpose.

Pressure on our space compels us to leave over the remainder of this article.

Dominion Artillery Association.

THE following circular memorandum respecting the annual gun practice of field batteries has recently been issued by Lieut.-Col. Irwin, Inspector of Artillery:—

1. In accordance with G. O. No. 8, 2.6.87, the following arrangements will be made for the annual gun practice of field batteries in the Dominion:—
2. Ontario—At Port Colborne, to commence 22nd June. At Kingston, to commence 28th June. Quebec—At Granby, to commence 28th June. At Island of Orleans, dates to be arranged by assistant inspector of artillery, Quebec. New Brunswick—At Newcastle, during annual drill. At Woodstock, date to be arranged by C. O. Cape Breton—At Sydney, during annual drill. Manitoba—At Winnipeg during annual drill.
3. Transport will be paid for two officers and 16 men, from battery to range and return—and allowance of 75 cents each, inclusive of daily pay if during annual drill, for each for such days as necessarily absent from battery headquarters.
4. Tents and blankets will be provided on the ground, and officers commanding batteries will make their own arrangements for subsisting their detachments.
5. The undermentioned batteries will perform their practice as follows:—At Port Colborne—Welland Canal and London, 22nd June; Hamilton, and Toronto, 23rd June; Guelph, (1 & 2), 25th June. At Kingston—Ottawa and Kingston, 29th June. Gananoque and Durham, 30th June. At Granby—Shefford, 29th June; Richmond, 30th June.
- 6.—The officers commanding London and Ottawa batteries, will make the necessary arrangements locally, so as to obtain transport at the most advantageous rates.
7. Gun practice will commence each day at 7 a.m., under the same rules as last year.
8. Officers commanding batteries will make the necessary requisitions for practice ammunition, to be delivered at their practice locality without delay.
9. Lieut.-Col. Cotton, Asst. Inspector of Artillery, executive officer and umpire at Kingston. Capt. Drury, A Battery, executive officer at Port Colborne. Capt. J. B. Donaldson, register keeper at Port Colborne. Lieut. L. H. Irving, T.G.B., range officer at Port Colborne. 2 N.C.O. and 6 gunners, 1 trumpeter—A Battery—Port Colborne.
10. Rules for practice, etc., as last year.
11. Medical officers will be detailed by camp commandants.

The following regulations, respecting the various field battery prize competitions, have been issued by Capt. Donaldson, secretary D.A.A.:—

Efficiency competition, will give the following credits: Clothing and accoutrements, 12; guns, carriages, and equipment, 16; horses, 12; harness and harnessing, 16; marching past, 15; gun drill and general duties, 28; sword drill by mounted officers and n.c.o., 8; field manoeuvres, 16; discipline, including camping, 12; answers to questions, officers, 40; answers to questions, n.c.o., 64; one-fifth total score at gun practice, 176.

Competition for Gzowski Cup, To be competed for on parade during annual drill by the four sub-divisions of the battery. The prizes awarded to the batteries performing the conditions in the shortest average time.

Conditions.—Nine-pounder gun and limber, four horses. Four detachments each, to consist of one n.c.o. (mounted) 6 gunners, 2 drivers. Field day order. Detachment to be in order of march. No. 1 and drivers—stand to their horses.

1. Gunners and Drivers prepare to mount. Mount.
2. Forward at a trot. March. Left incline. Left-shoulders, forward. Left-shoulders, forward. Left incline. Halt.

The gun to be taken round two pickets, each 20 yards from the leaders, and 20 yards apart, and back again to original ground.

3. Action—Front.
4. Load with drill cartridge and fire one round with friction tube.
5. Cease firing. Rear limber up.
6. Gunners prepare to mount. Mount.
7. Forward at a trot. March. Gun to be taken straight through two pickets, 3 feet high, 30 yards distant, and 6 feet 8 in. apart—as soon as 15 yards clear then:—
8. Halt. Action rear.
9. Load with a second drill cartridge and fire one round.
10. Front limber up. Form the order of march. Halt.

Cartridges to be taken separately from the limber box by No. 7. Ammunition not to be carried. For striking any of the pickets 5 seconds to be added to total time. For any faults or mistakes in drill as judged by umpire—5 seconds to be added for each. Umpire's decision to be final. No appeal.

Competitive Gun Practice—a detail of the ammunition allowed for competition is given, which corresponds with that detailed in the late general orders, (see page 789) with the exception that three of the trial shots in the preliminary competition and all five of the trial shots in the final competition are taken to make an officers' competition, limited to two officers from each competing battery, to fire four rounds each, viz., 4 common shell, percussion fuze, 8. The same range to be used in each competition. Trial shots to be fired by officers of the competing batteries. Rules for competitive gun practice as published by the D.A.A.

Correspondence.

MEDALS FOR THE RED RIVER EXPEDITION OF 1870.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

DEAR SIR,—I read with deep interest the letter of an ex-volunteer published in your valuable journal of 26th May last, relating to the granting of a medal to the members of the first Red River expedition, 1870. I fully concur in the views of your correspondent, for no one conversant with the hardships they endured, and the great importance of the success of that expedition, will question their right to have their services recognized by the Imperial and Dominion governments in a similar manner to the members of the expedition of 1885 by the presentation of a medal.

As nearly seventeen (17) years have passed since the first expedition (1870) started from Toronto, the events may not be very fresh in the minds of many of your readers, but the following extracts from the replies of Lord Wolseley, (then general in command of that expedition) to the civic addresses of Toronto and Montreal respectively, will suffice to show whether they are not worthy of substantial recognition at the hands of the Imperial and Canadian governments. In Lord Wolseley's reply to the Toronto civic address (8th November, 1870) he said:—

"You have been good enough to compare the Red River expedition with that which was sent to Abyssinia upon a very much similar mission. It is not for me to make comparisons on such a subject, but I can confidently assert that no previous military operation has ever entailed greater physical labor upon all ranks, and that no soldiers have ever supported excessive fatigue with greater endurance or cheerfulness than those who left Canada last spring for the North-west."

And in reply to the Montreal civic address, 29th September, 1870, Lord Wolseley said:—

"It must not be forgotten that our route for 800 miles lay through a wilderness of forests, lakes, and rivers, where no supplies of any description were obtainable.

"To toil at the oar day after day from dawn till dark, to drag their boats and carry on their backs all their provisions and other stores over 46 portages, such was the work that had to be accomplished before we reached our destination. I have campaigned in other parts of the world, but I never saw men go through such incessant labour. For days together the men were wet through, and had at times to work up to their waists in water, and during the months of June and July fine weather was the exception, and wet the rule. Great as was their exposure, I never heard a murmur from any one. Officers waded with men in carrying heavy loads, and praiseworthy rivalry between the regular troops and militia in their eagerness to get forward enabled me to reach our destination earlier than I had at one time anticipated."

"Canada may well be proud of them, and they, I can bear witness, have worked hard to earn the appreciation of their countrymen. Personally, I feel, I owe them a debt of gratitude, which I am proud to acknowledge. It will always be a source of pleasure to remember that I commanded the first military expedition undertaken by the Dominion of Canada. I feel confident it will form a bright era in its history as having been the direct means of securing to Canada a Province destined to be the home of millions, and in my opinion, the future granary of the British Empire."

Such testimony from so distinguished and able a general as Lord Wolseley speaks for itself. I am under the impression that Lord Wolseley suggested the propriety of awarding medals to the members of the first Red River expedition, but for reasons unknown to me his suggestion was not adopted at that time.

Now, Mr. Editor, I do say that since the precedent of awarding medals has been established, those men who went up on the first Red River expedition and put down the first Riel rebellion should certainly not be overlooked. It is not yet too late, however, and I trust that our government will now see their way to mark their appreciation, and that of all true Canadians, of the bravery, endurance and loyalty of the members of the first Red River expedition.

In conclusion, I beg to quote a passage from Lord Wolseley's farewell address:—"To the soldiers of the militia regiments of the Red River expedition."

"Although the rebels who had been oppressing the people fled at your approach without giving you an opportunity of proving how men capable of such labor could fight, you have deserved as well of your country as if you had won a battle."

"You had to carry on your backs a vast amount of supplies over no less than 47 portages—a feat unparalleled in military history."

I was not a member of the first Red River expedition, and am not related in any way whatever to any member of it, but write to call attention to the facts in the hope that others abler than your correspondent will take the matter up and see that our heroes of 1870 receive that recognition at the hands of their fellow-countrymen which they so richly deserve.

Toronto, 10th June, 1887.

ANOTHER EX-VOLUNTEER.

Montreal.—The first monthly competition of the 6th Fusiliers came off at the Point ranges on the 11th. The following being the four highest—Pte. Graham, 79; Pte. Riddle, 78; Sergt. Marks, 77; Pte. T. Scott, 71.

The Royal Scots held their first regimental competition on the 11th, Pte. D. Smith winning first prize.

In the Victoria Rifles' monthly competitions Pte. R. Matthews won the medal.